



WISCONSIN REGULATORY DIGEST

A Publication of the EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS

Volume 2, No. 1

February, 2001

Secretary Marlene Cummings Retires from State Service

Governor Tommy G. Thompson announced that Marlene Cummings is retiring after serving 14 years as Secretary of the Department of Regulation and Licensing to pursue private interests.

Governor Thompson thanked Secretary Cummings for her years of outstanding work and guidance on licensing issues.

Secretary Cummings, who will retire from state service on February 25, 2001, had served with Governor Thompson since the beginning of his administration and was one of his first cabinet appointments.

“Marlene truly is a great friend, a great leader and a source of stability within the administration,” Governor Thompson said. “We will miss her sound judgment and her innovative ideas. She has worked well with the licensing boards and her resignation will be a great loss for hundreds of board members and the entire state of Wisconsin.”

EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS JOINT BOARD OFFICERS

Chair: Joan Underwood, (Plymouth)
Vice Chair: Stephen Donohue, (Green Bay)
Secretary: Patrick McGuire, (Plymouth)

GEOLOGIST SECTION

Joan Underwood, Chair (Plymouth)
David Mickelson, Vice Chair (Madison)
Frederick Birts, Secretary (Milwaukee)
Thomas Evans (Madison)

HYDROLOGISTS SECTION

Stephen Donohue, Chair (Green Bay)
Robert Karnauskas, Vice Chair (Pewaukee)
Herbert Garn, Secretary (Middleton)
Roger Hall (Appleton)

SOIL SCIENTISTS SECTION

Tracy Benzel, Chair (Mercer)
E. Jerry Tyler, Vice Chair (Madison)
Wayne Lindgren, Secretary (Whitewater)
Patrick McGuire (Plymouth)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Alfred J. Hall, Jr., Bureau Director

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Marlene Cummings, Secretary
William Conway, Deputy Secretary
Myra Shelton, Executive Assistant

Governor Thompson said Secretary Cummings has had an extremely successful tenure that emphasized changes in the handling of disciplinary complaints and adopted innovative disciplinary procedures. Her innovations have included an agency time-line for handling complaints, the use of mandated education and a procedure for managing professionals with drug and alcohol addictions.

“My 14 years of service in Governor Thompson’s administration have been both inspiring and challenging,” Secretary Cummings said. “We were often at the forefront of significant business and health care developments.” Secretary Cummings also

Contents

Secretary Marlene Cummings Retires from State Service	1
Important Message from the Department of Workforce Development	2
List of Registrants	2
Reports of Disciplinary Decisions.....	2
Credential Non-Renewal	2
Change of Name and Address	3
Current Licensing Statistics.....	3
Professional Geologists Section News	3
Professional Hydrologists Section News.....	3
Professional Soil Scientists Section News.....	3
Disciplinary Actions.....	3
Telephone Directory & DRL Services	4

thanked Governor Thompson for his encouragement and the opportunity to serve, and wished him great success as a member of President Bush's cabinet.

Secretary Cummings says she is retiring to devote more time to her family. She said that she also needs more time for research and writing.

Important Message From the Department of Workforce Development

Failure to pay court-ordered child support may result in the suspension or non-renewal of professional licenses.

Recently enacted Wisconsin laws give local child support agencies the ability to request suspension or denial of licenses of people whose names appear on the Child Support Lien Docket and who owe more than \$1,000 or three months' worth of child support.

Past-due child support creates a lien against all of a payer's titled property. The lien is entered into Wisconsin's Child Support Lien Docket when past-due support reaches a specified threshold. In January 2001, the threshold amount was \$20,000 in past-due support.

Child support agencies will notify payers at the time their names are added to the Child Support Lien Docket and prior to initiating license suspension action. Satisfaction (payment in full) of the child support lien, or entering into and complying with a plan to pay off the past-due support, will halt license suspension action.

For more information about Child Support Liens and license suspension, please contact your local child support agency.

Lists of Registrants

The Department has implemented 1999 Wisconsin Act 88, which limits the disclosure of personal identifiers by the Department on lists that contain the personal identifiers of 10 or more individuals. A "personal identifier" is a name, social security number, telephone number, street address, post office box number or 9-digit extended zip code. Thus, any form that the Department requires you to complete in order to apply for or renew a credential must include a place for you to declare that the personal identifiers collected on the form may not be disclosed on any list that the Department or a credentialing board furnishes to another person. If you complete such a declaration the Department will not disclose your personal identifiers on such lists. Exceptions: lists furnished to another state agency, a law enforcement agency or a federal governmental agency.

Reports of Disciplinary Decisions

The Department of Regulation and Licensing publishes the Reports of Decisions on a monthly basis. The

reports contain disciplinary orders issued by the professional regulatory boards and by the Department. You may access these disciplinary orders at the Department's Web site. The address is: <http://www.drl.state.wi.us>.

The Reports of Decisions include final orders issued by the Department of Regulation and Licensing and the Boards attached to the Department. Decisions routinely included are decisions in cases initiated by the filing of a formal complaint or petition for summary suspension, disciplinary decisions reached through stipulation, cases dismissed without discipline, interim orders staying imposition of discipline, orders modifying limitations previously imposed and court decisions relating to orders issued by the Department or a Board. The reports do not include decisions to deny or grant an initial credential application or renewal application unless the grant or denial followed a hearing and relates to a ground for discipline.

Reports are prepared each month and take about four weeks to process from the close of the reporting period. The decisions are indexed by year and month, and within each, by respondent and by profession.

Credential Non-Renewal

The Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing renews the credentials of licensed professionals pursuant to Section 440.08(1) of the Wisconsin Statutes. It is very important for you to provide the Department of Regulation and Licensing with any changes in address to ensure receiving renewal material. Failure to receive a notice of renewal does not relieve the holder from the obligation of having a current credential. According to GHSS 1.05 (1), Wis. Admin. Code, if a credential holder is late with his or her renewal, but is within five years after the renewal date, the credential shall be renewed upon payment of the renewal fee and a late filing fee. On the other hand, GHSS 1.05 (2), Wis. Admin. Code, says "*If a licensee applies for renewal of his or her license more than 5 years after its expiration, the board shall determine whether the applicant is competent to practice under the license in this state.*" The importance of timely renewal of credentials is to avoid practicing without a license.

Practicing without the appropriate credential has many ramifications. The non-renewal of the professional license puts the professional in the position of practicing without a license. Practicing without a license will subject a credential holder to disciplinary action. Other consequences of practicing without a license may include the invalidation of malpractice insurance or liability insurance.

A current credential is a necessary component for a professional to practice his or her field to the fullest capacity. It behooves all professionals to stay abreast of the renewal dates for their specific field and abide

by the appropriate Wisconsin statutes or administrative rules.

Change of Name or Address?

Please photocopy the mailing label of this digest, make changes in name or address, and return it to the Department. Confirmation of changes is not automatically provided.

SECTION 440.11, STATS., ALLOWS FOR A \$50 PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED WHEN CHANGES ARE NOT REPORTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

Current Licensing Statistics

The number of active licensees as of January 16, 2001, is:

Professional Geologists	1,004
Professional Hydrologists	175
Professional Soil Scientists	186
Geology Firms	14
Hydrology Firms	2
Soil Science Firms	1

PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS SECTION NEWS

Section Meeting Dates in 2001

February 21, June 20, October 24

All meetings are held at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison WI. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates are subject to change.

Examination Dates for 2001

<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Deadline for Applications</u>
March 16, 2001	January 16, 2001
September 14, 2001	July 14, 2001

ASBOG 2000 Annual Meeting

Thomas Evans represented the Section at the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Annual Meeting held in Atlanta on October 10-14, 2000.

PROFESSIONAL HYDROLOGISTS SECTION NEWS

Section Meeting Dates in 2001

May 22, September 25

All meetings are held at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison WI. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates are subject to change.

Examination Dates for 2001

<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Deadline for Applications</u>
January 26, 2001	November 26, 2000
July 27, 2001	May 27, 2001

American Institute of Hydrology (AIH) Annual Meeting November 5-6, 2000, Raleigh North Carolina

Herbert Garn, member of the Professional Hydrologists Section, attended the AIH executive committee meeting, annual meeting and national conference in Durham, NC. Mr. Garn and the AIH's executive board discussed its commitment to administering a national licensure examination. He provided the general membership with an update on the status of the Wisconsin licensure program.

On November 5, Mr. Garn met with the AIH Executive Committee to discuss the Letter of Understanding between the association and the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing, relating to AIH assuming responsibility for maintaining and administering the Wisconsin professional hydrology licensure examination. AIH has signed the Letter of Understanding and is evaluating how to meet the conditions set forth in it. An 8-member Education Committee was asked to recommend a plan for the AIH to assume responsibility for the licensure examination. No major obstacles were identified by AIH at this time. The Education Committee agreed to develop a timetable and will provide its recommendations for approval by the Executive Committee in January 2001.

On November 6, Mr. Garn gave a luncheon slide presentation to attendees of the conference on the status and experience of licensing of professional hydrologists in Wisconsin. An abstract of the presentation was printed in the program received by all attendees. Questions following the presentation were concerned with the type of exam questions (multiple choice vs. essay), testing for "minimum competency" and reciprocity with other states that might initiate a similar licensing program. Attendees were interested in Wisconsin's experience and that it may serve as a model for other states interested in pursuing a licensing program.

PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS SECTION NEWS

Section Meeting Dates in 2001

February 27, June 26, October 23

All meeting are held at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison WI. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates are subject to change.

Examination Dates for 2001

<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Deadline for Applications</u>
March 24, 2001	January 24, 2001
October 6, 2001	August 6, 2001

Disciplinary Actions

None

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Examining Board of Professional Geologists,
Hydrologists and Soil Scientists
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

REGULATORY DIGEST

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1369

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Telephone Directory

The Division of Business Licensure & Regulation has a menu telephone system which is designed to more efficiently direct the caller to the appropriate section. The telephone number for staff is:

(608) 266-5511

After dialing this number you are asked to press various extensions. For the following requests, please press numbers as noted:

Applications Forms	Press 11
Complaints Against Licensees	Press 12
Application Processing & Requirements	Press 42
Whether A Person is Licensed	Press 442
FAX:	608-267-3816

Visit the Department's Web Site

www.drl.state.wi.us

For our new "Online Verification of Credential Holders" click on the "Business and Professional License Lookup" button on the Department's home page..

Copies of the Regulatory Digest are on the Web.

Send comments to dorl@drl.state.wi.us

Wisconsin Statutes and Code

Copies of the Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code Relating to the Regulation of Professional

Geologists, Hydrologists and Soil Scientists can be ordered from the Department. Include your name, address, county and a check payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28. The latest edition is dated January, 2000.

Subscription Service

Bi-annual digest subscriptions are published for all Boards housed within the Department at a cost of \$2.11 each per year. CREDENTIAL HOLDERS RECEIVE THEIR REGULATORY DIGEST FREE OF CHARGE. Others may send the fee and this form to the address listed above.

Subscription Service Order Form

Name

Company/Organization

Street Address/P.O. Box

City/State/Zip + 4

County

Digest(s) desired:

G:digests/GHSS Jt Bd 0201.doc